

LETTER OF TRANSMITTAL

To: Lewis County Board of County Commissioners
From: Lewis County Planning Commission
Date: February 23, 2016
Subject: Transmittal to the BOCC: Findings and Conclusions regarding Draft Revisions to LCC Section 17.42.030

Dear Commissioners:

The purpose of this report is to transmit the draft revisions to LCC Section 17.42.030, pertaining to Animal Kennels, Shelters, Boarding, Grooming and Animal Hospital Standards, to the BOCC for board review and approval.

General findings of fact:

1. Lewis County currently contains several dog kennels, including some commercial (selling puppies bred at the facility) and some noncommercial (animal rescues, etc.).
2. The Public Health and Social Services Department has had limited success enforcing the existing laws for dog kennels (Chapter 6.15 LCC), which are intended to ensure that dogs are kept humanely and in a manner that does not endanger public health.
3. To make the standards more effective, the Public Health and Social Services Department, the Department of Community Development and the Office of the Prosecuting Attorney identified a variety potential changes to the Lewis County Code. A packet of many of these proposed changes will be sent to the BOCC as part of a separate code amendment.
4. As part of that review of the Lewis County Code, county staff noticed that the Title 17 LCC (Land Use and Development Regulations) regulates animal businesses in an inconsistent and unclear manner.
5. To make the requirements more consistent and tie in with the remainder of the work that will be proposed by the Health Department and Office of the Prosecuting Attorney, the Department of Community Development proposed making changes to the LAMIRD and RDD tables in LCC 17.42.030, which would combine and (mostly) permit all similar animal uses.
6. To ensure the legitimacy of the proposal, the Planning Commission held two separate workshops (on October 27, 2015 and January 16, 2016) on the suggested revisions.

6. At their meeting of February 23, 2016, the Planning Commission held a duly noticed Public Hearing on the proposed changes to LCC 17.42.030.

7. Following the Public Hearing, the Planning Commission deliberated the proposed revisions and voted to recommend that the BOCC approve of the proposal.

Conclusions

The Planning Commission recommends that the Lewis County Board of County Commissioners pass a resolution amending the Lewis County Code 17.42.030, pertaining to Animal Kennels, Shelters, Boarding Facilities, and Animal Hospital Standards, based on the above findings and conclusions.

Being duly authorized to transmit the recommendations on behalf of the Lewis County Planning Commission, I hereby respectfully submit this to the Lewis County Board of County Commissioners.

Submitted by


Michael Mahoney, Chairman
Lewis County Planning Commission

Date

2.24-2016